



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Timothy M. Morrison
Southern District of Indiana**

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CONTACT: MARY BIPPUS

(317) 229-2403

Fax: (317) 226-5002

Cell: (317) 590-7928

LEADER OF COCAINE AND METH DRUG DEALING ORGANIZATION SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS

PRESS RELEASE

Indianapolis - Rosalio Cruz-Rea, 32, Saint George, Utah, was sentenced to 27 years in prison late yesterday by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young. In July 2009, after a seven-day trial in Evansville, a jury found Cruz-Rea and two other co-defendants guilty of conspiring to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine. The case against Cruz-Rea and other co-conspirators was the result of a ten-month, DEA-led investigation.

During the spring of 2007, authorities launched an investigation into the drug trafficking activities of an organization responsible for distributing millions of dollars worth of cocaine and methamphetamine in the Evansville and Indianapolis areas. Rosalio Cruz-Rea led this drug trafficking organization that obtained large amounts of methamphetamine and cocaine in California. The organization then transported the drugs via train, rental car, bus, or car hauler to Indianapolis and Evansville for further distribution. All told, during the investigation law enforcement purchased and seized more than 11 kilograms of cocaine and more than 15 pounds of methamphetamine.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Matthias D. Onderak, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed five years supervised release following Cruz-Rea's release from prison. However, Cruz-Rea also faces deportation proceedings after he completes his 27 year prison sentence.

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